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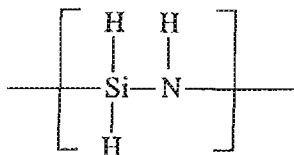
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(54) Title: POLYSILAZANE-CONTAINING COATING SOLUTION



(I)

(57) Abstract: A coating solution comprising 0.1 to 35% by weight of an inorganic or organic polysilazane having repeating units represented by the general formula below and soluble in a solvent and 0.1 to 10% by weight of catalyst such as 4,4'-trimethylenebis(1-methylpiperidine) based on a pure polysilazane content. By applying the coating solution onto the surface of base materials such as metals, plastics, glass, ceramic, wood, cement, mortar, bricks, etc., a silica coating strongly adhered to the base materials can be formed excellent in corrosion resistance and anti-scratch properties and simultaneously excellent in characteristics such as abrasion resistant,

long-lasting anti-fouling properties, wetting properties to water, sealing properties, chemical resistance, oxidation resistance, physical barrier effect, heat resistance, fire resistance and antistatic properties.

POLYSILAZANE-CONTAINING COATING SOLUTION

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a coating solution capable of forming a coating excellent in characteristics such as corrosion resistance, anti-scratch properties, abrasion resistance, wetting properties to water, easy-to-clean properties, sealing properties, chemical resistance, oxidation resistance, physical barrier effect, heat resistance, fire resistance, antistatic properties and anti-fouling properties by
10 applying it onto the surface of base materials such as metals, plastics, wood, ceramics, cement, mortar, bricks, clay, etc. of the bodies and wheels of automobiles, trains, airplanes, etc., dentures, tombstones, the interior and exterior of a house, products used with water in toilets, kitchens, washrooms, bathtubs, etc., signboards, signs, plastic products, and glass products.

15

Background Art

Conventionally, various measures are taken to prevent pollution of the surfaces of articles. For example, automobile bodies are easily fouled with dust, combustion
20 products such as exhaust gas, or the like. Therefore the bodies are coated with wax to form a wax coating thus preventing pollution of the bodies. By rendering the surface of the body water-repellent, water upon contacting with the surface of the body forms drops of water to roll down the surface of the body, whereby fouling components in the water can be prevented from adhering and remaining on the
25 surface of the body, while the wax coating makes adhesion of fouling components to the surface of the body difficult, and even if fouling components adhere to the surface, they can be easily washed away with water.

Further, products used with water, such as bathtubs, kitchen sinks, washstands,
30 etc. are contacted during use with various materials such as soap liquid containing oils and oily components, facial cleansing cream, hair shampoos, etc. in addition to water. At this time oily substances and calcium salts of soap (i.e. soap dregs) are considered to adhere to the surfaces of the products with dust etc. to form

fouling. To prevent fouling on the product, a glazed surface constituting a glassy surface formed on the product is subjected sometimes to water repellency treatment with wax, a fluorine-containing material, etc. to prevent fouling from remaining on the glazed surface. By this water repellency treatment, it is also
5 attempted to prevent adhesion of fouling to the interior and exterior of a house, toilet stools, products used with water, signboards, signs, tombstones, etc.

On the other hand, the modification of the surface of a base material by coating the surface with a surfactant to render it hydrophilic has been known for a long
10 time, and a further improvement in durability of this hydrophilicity by adding and incorporating a water-soluble organic polymer such as polyacrylic acid or polyvinyl alcohol into the surfactant is described in JP-A 52-101680 etc. Further, a method of applying and fixing a hydrophilic material such as cellulose, glycols and glycerine via a coating of a polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl acetate copolymer to the surface
15 and inside of a porous film made of a hydrophobic polymer is known as described in JP-B 5-67330 etc.

However, the water-repellent effect of water-repellency treatment with conventional water-repellant wax cannot be said to be satisfactory, or even if sufficient water-
20 repellency treatment is initially conducted, the effect cannot be said to be long-lasting, thus failing to exhibit a long and sufficient anti-fouling effect. Further, the conventional hydrophilic coating confers hydrophilicity merely temporarily or in a short time, and therefore the sufficient durability of the hydrophilic effect can hardly be expected, and the water film on the hydrophilic coating is hardly rendered
25 uniform, thus causing a transmission image or reflected image to be warped and making practical application thereof to the products problematic.

Furthermore with respect to prevention of dentures from fouling and generating smell, fluorine treatment and the like have been examined, but cannot be said to
30 achieve a sufficient effect for a long time by treating the dentures once.

In addition, there is also demand for a coating solution capable of forming a coating excellent in characteristics such as corrosion resistance, anti-scratch

properties, abrasion resistance, easy-to-clean properties, wetting properties to water, sealing properties, chemical resistance, oxidation resistance, physical barrier effect, low shrinkage, UV-barrier effect, smoothening effect, durability effect, heat resistance, fire resistance and antistatic properties, and there is strong
5 demand for improvement particularly in corrosion resistance and anti-scratch properties.

The present invention was made to solve the problems described above.
Therefore an object of the present invention is to provide a coating solution which
10 after application, can form a rigid and dense coating excellent in adhesion to a base material and which can form a coating excellent in corrosion resistance and anti-scratch properties and simultaneously excellent in characteristics such as long-lasting hydrophilic and anti-fouling effect, abrasion resistance, easy-to-clean properties, anti-scratch properties, corrosion resistance, sealing properties,
15 chemical resistance, oxidation resistance, physical barrier effect, low shrinkage, UV-barrier effect, smoothening effect, durability effect, heat resistance, fire resistance and antistatic properties on the surfaces of various base materials.
Thereby the surfaces of various products or articles such as automobile bodies, automobile wheels, dentures, tombstones, the interior and exterior of a house,
20 products used with water in toilets, kitchens, washrooms, bathtubs, etc., toilet stools, signboards, signs, plastic products, glass products, ceramic products, wood products, etc., can be endowed with the above-described various effects including corrosion resistance and anti-scratch properties.

25 The required characteristics of the coating solution, for example, the outward appearance such as uniform transparency after coating, drying characteristics, smell, safety, less damage to base materials, etc. are varied depending on base materials, setting conditions, and application modes of products or articles to be coated with the coating solution and necessity for consideration of the surrounding
30 environment upon application of the coating solution. Therefore, another object of the present invention is to provide a coating solution capable of easily preparing a suitable coating solution adapted to various applications.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention relates to a coating solution having the following characteristics:

- 5 (1) A coating solution comprising a polysilazane having a Si-H bond, a diluting solvent, and a catalyst.
- (2) The coating solution according to the above-mentioned item 1, wherein petroleum solvent, an aromatic or alicyclic solvent, an ether, a halogenated hydrocarbon or a terpene mixture or a mixture of those solvents is used as
10 the diluting solvent.
- (3) The coating solution according to item 1, wherein a paraffin type solvent, a mineral spirit, a paraffin type solvent, terpene mixtures or an ether or a mixture thereof is used as the diluting solvent.
- (4) The coating solution according to item 3, wherein dibutyl ether, dimethyl
15 ether, diethyl ether, polyglycol ether or tetrahydrofuran or a mixture thereof is used as the diluting solvent.
- (5) The coating solution according to any one of the items 2 to 4, wherein the diluting solvent further comprises one or more of solvents selected from xylene, methylcyclohexane and ethylcyclohexane.
- 20 (6) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 5, wherein the concentration of the polysilazane having a Si-H bond is 0.1 to 35% by weight.
- (7) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 5, wherein the concentration of the polysilazane having a Si-H bond is 0.5 to 10% by
25 weight.
- (8) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 7, wherein the catalyst is contained in an amount of 0.01 to 30% by weight based on a pure polysilazane content having a Si-H bond.
- (9) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 8, wherein the
30 catalyst is an N-heterocyclic compound, an organic or inorganic acid, a metal carboxylate, an acetylacetonate complex, fine metal particles, an peroxide, a metal chloride or an organometallic compound.
- (10) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 9, wherein the

polysilazane having a Si-H bond is an inorganic polysilazane synthesized by reacting SiH_2Cl_2 with a base to form an adduct of SiH_2Cl_2 and then reacting the adduct of SiH_2Cl_2 with ammonia.

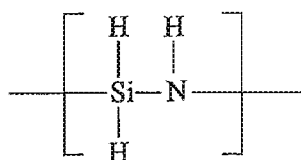
- 5 (11) The coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 9, wherein the polysilazane having a Si-H bond is a polysilazane synthesized by reacting SiH_2Cl_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ with a base to form adducts of SiH_2Cl_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ and then reacting the adducts of SiH_2Cl_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ with ammonia.
- 10 (12) Use of the coating solution according to any one of the items 1 to 11 for the coating of surfaces of a base material to enhance the anti-corrosion, abrasion resistance, anti-fouling properties, easy-to-clean properties, wetting properties to the water, sealing effect, chemical resistance, anti-oxidation, physical barrier effect, heat resistance, fire resistance, low shrinkage, UV-barrier effect, smoothening effect, durability effect, antistatic
- 15 properties and anti-scratch characteristics of the surfaces of the base materials of products or articles.
- (13) Use according to item 12, wherein the coating solution is applied to the surface of the base material in combination with a primer.
- (14) Use according to claim 12 and/or 13, wherein the surface has been coated
- 20 with laquers, varnishes or paints prior to the application of the coating solution.

Preferred Mode of the Invention

- 25 Hereinafter, the present invention is described in further detail.

The coating solution of the present invention comprises a polysilazane having a Si-H bond, a diluting solvent and a catalyst as essential components. The polysilazane having a Si-H bond used in the coating solution of the present

30 invention includes the inorganic polysilazane soluble in a solvent and having repeating units represented by the general formula:



The inorganic polysilazane having repeating units represented by the above general formula and soluble in a solvent, used in the present invention, may be
5 any inorganic polysilazanes produced by a method known in the art.

As the method of producing the inorganic polysilazane having repeating units represented by the above general formula and soluble in a solvent, any one of arbitrary methods including methods known in the art may be used as described
10 above. One of the methods is, for example, a method of synthesizing an inorganic polysilazane by reacting a dihalosilane represented by the general formula SiH_2X_2 (X is a halogen atom) with a base to form a dihalosilane adduct and then reacting the dihalosilane adduct with ammonia. The halosilane is generally acidic and can react with a base to form an adduct. Because the rate of formation and the stability
15 of the adduct depend on the acidity of the halosilane and the basicity or steric factor of the basic substance, the type of halosilane and the type of base may be selected suitably to form a stable adduct capable of reacting with ammonia to produce an inorganic polysilazane easily. The stability of adduct in this case does not necessarily mean such stability as to be able to be isolated in the form of
20 adduct, but means all possible cases where, for example, the adduct exists stably in a solvent and also functions substantially as a reaction intermediate.

As the halosilane, a dihalosilane represented by the general formula SiH_2X_2 (X = F, Cl, Br, or I) is preferably selected from the viewpoint of the handling and
25 reactivity thereof, and particularly dichlorosilane is preferably selected from the viewpoint of the reactivity, the price of its starting material, etc.

The base used for forming the adduct may be a base not causing other reactions than the reaction of forming an adduct with a halosilane, and preferable examples
30 thereof include Lewis bases, tertiary amines (trialkylamines), pyridine, picoline and

derivatives thereof, secondary amines having a sterically hindered group, phosphine, arsine and derivatives thereof (for example, trimethyl phosphine, dimethylethyl phosphine, methyldiethyl phosphine, trimethyl arsine, trimethyl stilbene, trimethylamine, triethylamine, thiophene, furan, dioxane, selenophene, etc.), among which pyridine and picoline are particularly preferable for handling and from an economical viewpoint. The amount of the base used is not particularly required to be strict, and the base may be present in excess over the stoichiometric ratio of the base (including an amine in an adduct) to the silane, that is, in excess over the ratio of amine : silane = 2 : 1. The reaction of forming an adduct is carried out in a solvent.

In synthesis of the inorganic polysilazane via an adduct, the adduct is reacted with ammonia in an inert solution to form the inorganic polysilazane, wherein the amount of ammonia may be in excess over silane, and the reaction conditions are that the reaction temperature is usually -78°C to 100°C , preferably -40°C to 80°C , and the reaction time and reaction pressure are not particularly limited. The polymerization reaction of the inorganic polysilazane is carried out preferably in an inert gas atmosphere, and the inert gas is preferably nitrogen or argon gas.

In the present invention, the inorganic polysilazane may be the one soluble in a solvent and having repeating units represented by the general formula above, but usually the one having a number-average molecular weight in the range of 600 to 3000 is preferably used. Further, the inorganic polysilazane is used preferably in an amount of 0.1 to 35% by weight based on the total weight of the coating solution, preferably in an amount of 0.5 to 10 % by weight.

Further, the organic polysilazane having a Si-H bond suitable as the polysilazane used in the present invention includes polysilazanes synthesized by reacting a dihalosilane (preferably dichlorosilane) and $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{SiX}_2$ (R^1 and R^2 represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group (preferably a methyl group) provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and X represents F, Cl, Br or I, preferably Cl) with a base to form their corresponding adducts and then reacting the adducts with ammonia. The base and reaction conditions for forming the

adducts and the conditions for the reaction of the adducts with ammonia may be identical with those for production of the inorganic polysilazane described above.

On the other hand, the catalyst used in the present invention may be any one
5 which has a function of converting the polysilazane into silica at ordinary temperatures. Preferable examples of the catalyst in the invention include N-heterocyclic compounds such as 1-methylpiperazine, 1-methylpiperidine, 4,4'-trimethylene-dipiperidine, 4,4'-trimethylenebis(1-methylpiperidine), diazabicyclo-[2,2,2]octane, cis-2,6-dimethylpiperazine, 4-(4-methylpiperidine)pyridine, pyridine,
10 dipiperidine, α -picoline, β -picoline, γ -picoline, piperidine, lutidine, pyrimidine, pyridazine, 4,4'-trimethylenedipyridine, 2-(methylamino)pyridine, pyrazine, quinoline, quinoxaline, triazine, pyrrole, 3-pyrroline, imidazole, triazole, tetrazole and 1-methylpyrrolidine; amines such as methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, ethylamine, diethylamine, triethylamine, propylamine,
15 dipropylamine, tripropylamine, butylamine, dibutylamine, tributylamine, pentylamine, dipentylamine, tripentylamine, hexylamine, dihexylamine, trihexylamine, heptylamine, diheptylamine, octylamine, dioctylamine, trioctylamine, phenylamine, diphenylamine and triphenylamine; DBU (1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0] 7-undecene), DBN (1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0] 5-nonene), 1,5,9-triazacyclododecane,
20 1,4,7-triazacyclononane, etc.

Further, an organic acid, an inorganic acid, a metal carboxylate, an acetylacetonate complex and fine metal particles can also be exemplified as a preferable catalyst. The organic acid includes acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, valeric acid,
25 maleic acid and stearic acid, and the inorganic acid includes hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrogen peroxide, chloric acid and hypochlorous acid. The metal carboxylate is a compound represented by the formula: $(RCOO)_nM$ wherein R represents a C_{1-22} aliphatic or alicyclic group; M represents at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ni, Ti, Pt, Rh,
30 Co, Fe, Ru, Os, Pd, Ir and Al; and n is the valence of M. The metal carboxylate may be an anhydride or a hydrate. The acetylacetonate complex is a complex comprising a metal atom coordinated with an anion $acac^-$ generated from acetylacetone(2,4-pentadione) via dissociation of an acid, and is generally

represented by the formula $(\text{CH}_3\text{COCHCOCH}_3)_n\text{M}$ wherein M is a n-valent metal. Preferable examples of the metal M include nickel, platinum, palladium, aluminum and rhodium. The fine metal particles are preferably those of Au, Ag, Pd or Ni, particularly preferably Ag. The particle diameter of the fine metal particles is
5 preferably smaller than 0.5 μm , more preferably 0.1 μm or less, still more preferably smaller than 0.05 μm . In addition to these materials, peroxides, metal chloride, and organometallic compounds such as ferrocene and zirconocene can also be used. These catalysts are incorporated in an amount of 0.01 to 30 %, preferably 0.1 to 10%, especially preferred 0.5 to 7 % based on a pure
10 polysilazane content.

The diluting solvent used in the coating solution of the invention may be any of diluting solvents capable of dissolving the polysilazane having a Si-H bond and the catalyst. In consideration of storage stability, the diluting solvent is preferably a
15 solvent having a sustained ability to dissolve the polysilazane and the catalyst, and the solvent even used for a long time is preferably stable without evolution of gases such as silane, hydrogen, ammonia, etc. The diluting solvent used in the coating solution of the present invention includes petroleum solvents such as mineral spirit, paraffin type solvents, aromatic solvents, alicyclic solvents, ethers
20 and halogenated hydrocarbons. Examples of these solvents or solvent components include paraffin type solvents or solvent components such as octane and 2,2,3-trimethylpentane with 8 carbons, nonane and 2,2,5-trimethylhexane with 9 carbons, decane with 10 carbons, n-undecane with 11 carbons, etc., aromatic solvents or solvent components such as xylene with 8 carbons, cumene and
25 mesitylene with 9 carbons, naphthalene, tetrahydronaphthalene, butylbenzene, p-cymene, diethylbenzene and tetramethylbenzene with 10 carbons, pentylbenzene with 11 carbons, etc., alicyclic solvents or solvent components such as methylcyclohexane with 7 carbons, ethylcyclohexane with 8 carbons, p-menthane, α -pinene, dipentene and decalin with 10 carbons, etc., ethers such as dimethyl
30 ether, diethyl ether, dibutyl ether, polyglycol ether, tetrahydrofuran, etc., and halogenated hydrocarbons such as chlorinated hydrocarbons of dichloromethane, dichloroethane, chloroform, etc. or the respective fluorinated, brominated or iodated hydrocarbons and chlorinated aromatic compounds of chlorobenzene, etc.

Furthermore it has been proven useful to employ terpene mixtures, like for instance Depanol® as solvents. However these solvents are exemplified merely as illustrative purpose, and the solvents or solvent components are not limited to those exemplified specifically. Further, these solvents or solvent components are used alone or as a mixture thereof. Mineral sprit, paraffin type solvent and dibutyl ether are particularly preferred in these solvents.

The coating solution of the invention can be applied onto the surfaces of automobile bodies, automobile wheels, dentures, tombstones, the interior and exterior of a house, products used with water in toilets, kitchens, washrooms, bathtubs, etc., toilet stools, signboards, signs, plastic products, glass products, ceramic products, wood products, etc. or the surfaces of various articles, to form dense and hydrophilic coatings on the surfaces of these products or articles. The base materials to which the coating solution of the invention is applied include a wide variety of materials, for example metals such as iron, steel, zinc, aluminum, nickel, titanium, vanadium, chromium, cobalt, copper, zirconium, niobium, molybdenum, ruthenium, rhodium, boron, tin, lead or manganese or alloys thereof provided if necessary with an oxide or plating film, various kinds of plastics such as polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polyurethane, polyesters such as PET, polyallyldiglycol carbonate (PADC), polycarbonate, polyimide, polyamide, epoxy resin, ABS resin, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polythiocyanate, POM and polytetrafluoroethylene, if necessary in combination with a primer to enhance the adhesion to the said materials. Such primers are for instance silanes, siloxanes, silazanes to name only a few. Further base materials to which the coating solution of the invention can be applied include glass, wood, ceramic, concrete, mortar, brick, clay or fibers etc. These base materials may be coated if necessary with lacquers, varnishes or paints such as polyurethane lacquers, acrylic lacquers and dispersion paints.

These methods of applying the coating solution of the invention may be any of known methods of applying liquids. Specifically, the method of applying the coating solution of the invention includes, for example, a method of wiping with a cloth, a method of wiping with a sponge, spray coating, flow coating, roller coating, dip

coating, etc., but the coating method is not limited to these exemplified methods. The preferable method of applying the coating solution of the invention is varied depending on various conditions such as the shape, size and quantity of a product to which the coating solution is applied; for example, in the case of automobile
5 bodies and tombstones, a method of wiping with a cloth, a method of wiping with a sponge and spraying are preferable in operation, and in the case of the interior and exterior of a house, roller coating and spray coating are preferable. In the case of dentures, spray coating and dip coating are preferable. Preferably, the coating solution is applied in such an amount as to form a coating of about 0.1 to 2
10 microns in thickness after drying.

By applying the coating solution of the invention, a dense coating can be formed on the surface of a product, and thus giving anti-corrosion, abrasion resistance, anti-fouling properties, easy-to-clean properties, wetting properties to the water,
15 sealing effect, chemical resistance, anti-oxidation, physical barrier effect, heat resistance, fire resistance, low shrinkage, UV-barrier effect, smoothening effect, durability effect, antistatic properties and anti-scratch characteristics to the surfaces of the base materials of products or articles. The reason why the above-described characteristics can be given to the products and articles is that the
20 polysilazane contained in the coating solution is converted into a dense silica coating by the action of the catalyst. Further, by the formation of silica coating, the surface of the products or articles shows strongly hydrophilic properties based on silica film. When dried at ordinary temperatures, the coating solution of the invention easily forms a rigid and dense coating made of silica. The formation of
25 this silica coating is varied depending on the type of polysilazane, the type of catalyst, etc., but the coating will be formed in a period of about 1 to 2 weeks. The coating solution of the invention is in a solution form at the time of application, and can thus be applied very easily to form a coating. The coating can be converted into a dense and rigid hydrophilic coating after application, thereby giving above-
30 described properties onto the various surface of products and articles. The surface of the formed coating is so rigid and dense that it is excellent as a corrosion-resistant coating and anti-scratch coating and simultaneously the coating is excellent in abrasion resistance, anti-fouling effect and easy-to-clean properties

when fouled. Further, the coating solution of the invention can be used not only as a corrosion-resistant coating, an anti-scratch coating, an abrasion-resistant coating, an anti-fouling coating or a coating excellent in easy-to-clean properties, but also as a film-forming coating solution for forming a hydrophilic coating, a
5 sealing material, a chemical-resistant coating, an anti-oxidization coating, a physical barrier coating, a heat resistance-conferring coating, a fire-resistant coating, an antistatic coating, a low shrinkage coating, a UV-barrier coating, a smoothening coating, a durability coating etc.

- 10 When the coating solution of the invention is used to form a hydrophilic and dense silica coating by using of the inorganic polysilazane on the surface of e.g. an automobile, a tombstone, the outer wall of a house, or the like, the resultant hydrophilic surface, upon contacting with rainwater, comes to be in the state of a watery coating without forming water drops thereon. In addition, the hydrophilic
15 surface has higher affinity for water than for hydrophobic substances such as combustion products including dust etc., thus permitting these foul substances to be easily washed away with rain water. Further, the amount of smoke and dust adhering thereto can be reduced because of formation of the dense surface. Accordingly, visually noticeable fouling hardly occurs, and the amount of adhering
20 fouling is reduced. And because of the dense coating formed, it is difficult to be scratched and is attained to prevent corrosion.

In the case of dentures, acrylic resin as the material of dentures absorbs water with which foul substances enter the resin or foul substances adsorb or adhere onto the resin, and these foul substances is a source of the smell of dentures. As
25 the coating solution of the invention forms a hydrophilic and dense silica coating adhering well to dentures at a temperature at which acrylic resin as the denture material is not deformed or deteriorated, the absorption of water into the resin can be prevented, thus preventing the invasion of foul substances into the denture material, and even if foul substances adhere to the silica coating, they can be
30 easily washed away with water, and thus evolution of smell can be prevented. Further, dentures are coated with the coating solution of the invention, so that even if unevenness occurs on dentures in finish polishing, the silica coating makes this unevenness smooth to make adhesion of foul substances more

difficult. Further, the formed silica coating has high surface hardness and high durability, and is thus not abraded with foods or upon biting, is stable in the living body, and is not eluted. Even if the silica is released, it is nontoxic.

- 5 The required properties of the coating solution of the invention, for example, outward appearance, drying characteristics, smell, safety, damage to a base material, and storage stability of the coating solution, are varied a little bit depending on the use of a product to which the coating solution is applied. To cope therewith, the most suitable coating solution for intended use can be easily
10 provided by changing not only the type and amount of the polysilazane and catalyst used but also the type of the solvent and the compounding ratio.

- For example, a heavy solvent such as mineral spirit is suitable as the solvent for readily noticeably fouled base materials whose outward appearance is regarded
15 as important, such as an automobile coated in dark color, dentures, polished granite, a mirror-finish metal or plated substrate, transparent resin and glass. Mineral terpenes Pegasol AN45 and Pegasol 3040 from Mobil Sekiyu Corp. are also preferably usable solvents. By using mineral spirit as the solvent, base materials whose spots, interference colors, whiteness and grittiness are readily
20 noticeable can be beautifully coated with the coating solution. Mineral spirit has the above-described advantage, but is relatively poor in the solubilizing power so that for compensating for the solubilizing power, mixed aromatic solvents such as Solvesso 100 and Solvesso 150 from Esso Sekiyu Co. and Pegasol R-100 and Pegasol R-150 from Mobil Sekiyu Corp. may be compounded in addition to
25 mineral spirit. Further, paraffin type solvents free of aromatic components can also be used as the solvent. Specifically, low-odor solvents Exxol DSP100/140, Exxol D30, Exxol D40 etc. from Tonen Chemical Co. can be mentioned.

- Further, it is also important that products used with water, such as those in toilets,
30 kitchens, washrooms, bathrooms, etc. and dentures are odorless. By adding a low-odor solvent such as methylcyclohexane or ethylcyclohexane if necessary as a part of the solvent, a coating solution with less smell can be provided for such products required to be odorless.

The coating solution of the invention may be applied to a product and goods newly produced or to a product during use.

Then, examples of compositions of the inorganic polysilazane, the catalyst and the diluting solvent in the coating solution intended for the respective uses are shown below. These are shown merely for illustrative purposes, and the composition and compounding ratio of the coating solution may be adapted to the use of a product coated therewith, and the composition and compounding ratio of the coating solution of the invention are not limited to those shown below.

10

A. Automobile bodies, wheels

The solution should not damage a coating sublayer and be stable such that particularly when the solution is applied by a cup gun, it is not whitened in the cup gun.

15

(Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane: 0.3 to 2% by weight

DMPP: 0.01 to 0.1% by weight

20 Xylene: 0.5 to 10% by weight

Pegasol AN45: balance

DMPP is 4,4'-trimethylenebis(1-methylpiperidine) (hereinafter this abbreviation is used).

25

(Preferable Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane: 0.4 to 1% by weight

DMPP: 0.01 to 0.05% by weight

Xylene: 1 to 4% by weight

30 Pegasol AN45: balance

B. Dentures . .

The solution should be stable without whitening for a long time and safe to the human body with less smell without deforming or deteriorating acrylic resin as the
5 denture material.

(Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane:	0.5 to 5% by weight
DMPP:	0.02 to 0.2% by weight
10 Pegasol AN45:	balance

(Preferable Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane:	1 to 2% by weight
DMPP:	0.04 to 0.08% by weight
15 Pegasol AN45:	balance

C. Tombstones

The solution should show less interference color when applied on granite or the
20 like and be stable for a long time so as not to be whitened.

(Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane:	0.5 to 4% by weight
DMPP:	0.01 to 0.2% by weight
25 Xylene:	5 to 50% by weight
Pegasol 3040:	balance

(Preferable Example of Compounding Ratio)

Inorganic polysilazane:	1 to 3% by weight
30 DMPP:	0.01 to 0.1% by weight
Xylene:	5 to 15% by weight
Pegasol 3040:	balance

D. The interior and exterior of a house, bathtubs, kitchens, etc.

The solution should scarcely smell, be safe to the human body, and have a high drying characteristic.

5

(Example of Compounding Ratio)

	Inorganic polysilazane:	0.3 to 2% by weight
	DMPP:	0.01 to 0.2% by weight
	Xylene:	1 to 10% by weight
10	Pegasol AN45:	5 to 88% by weight
	Ethylcyclohexane:	5 to 88% by weight
	Methylcyclohexane:	5 to 88% by weight

(Preferable Example of Compounding Ratio)

15	Inorganic polysilazane:	0.5 to 2% by weight
	DMPP:	0.01 to 0.1% by weight
	Xylene:	1 to 5% by weight
	Pegasol AN45:	20 to 50% by weight
	Ethylcyclohexane:	20 to 50% by weight
20	Methylcyclohexane:	20 to 50% by weight

E. Polycarbonate plate

The solution should not erode a polycarbonate plate as a substrate.

25

(Example of Compounding Ratio)

	Inorganic polysilazane:	0.5 to 5% by weight
	DMPP:	0.01 to 0.4% by weight
	Xylene:	1 to 10% by weight
30	Pegasol 3040:	balance

(Preferable Example of Compounding Ratio)

	Inorganic polysilazane:	0.5 to 4% by weight
--	-------------------------	---------------------

DMPP: 0.03 to 0.2% by weight
Xylene: 3 to 10% by weight
Pegasol 3040: balance

- 5 The solvents Pegasol AN45 and Pegasol 3040 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), which are fractions produced by hydrogenation and refining of distilled oil obtained by distillation of crude oil at normal pressures, are mainly C₈ to C₁₁ petroleum type hydrocarbons, and their aniline points are 43°C and 54°C respectively, and Pegasol AN45 contains aromatic components in a higher amount than in Pegasol
10 3040.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Hereinafter, the present invention is described in more detail by reference to the
15 Production Examples and the Examples, but the present invention is not limited to the Production Examples and the Examples described below.

Production Example 1 (Production of the inorganic polysilazane)

A gas inlet tube, a mechanical stirrer and a Dewar condenser were fit into a four-
20 necked flask with an internal volume of 300 ml. The inside of the reactor was replaced by dry deoxygenated nitrogen, and then 150 ml of dry degassed pyridine was introduced into the four-necked flask and cooled on ice. Then, 16.1 g dichlorosilane was added thereto over 50 minutes, to form a white solid adduct (SiH₂Cl₂·2Py). The reaction mixture was cooled on ice under vigorous stirring and
25 bubbled over 1 hour with a mixture of a nitrogen gas and 10.9 g ammonia previously purified by passage through a soda lime tube and an active carbon tube. After the reaction was finished, the solid product was removed by centrifugation and subsequent filtration. By removing the solvent from the filtrate under reduced pressure (50°C, 5 mmHg, 2 hours), 5.52 g glassy solid polysilazane
30 was obtained. The molecular weight of the polysilazane determined by a vapor pressure depression method was 2000. The yield was 77%.

Production Example 2 (Production of the organic polysilazane)

A gas inlet tube, a mechanical stirrer and a Dewar condenser were fit into a four-necked flask with an internal volume of 300 ml. The inside of this reactor was replaced by dry deoxygenated nitrogen, and then 150 ml of dry degassed pyridine was introduced into the four-necked flask and cooled on ice. Then, 9.2 g methyl
5 dichlorosilane and 8.1 g dichlorosilane were added thereto to form a white solid adduct. The reaction mixture was cooled on ice under vigorous stirring and bubbled with a mixture of a nitrogen gas and 12.0 g ammonia previously purified by passage through a soda lime tube and an active carbon tube. After the reaction was finished, the solid product was removed by centrifugation and subsequent
10 filtration. By removing the solvent from the filtrate under reduced pressure (50°C, 5 mmHg, 2 hours), 5.2 g viscous liquid polysilazane was obtained. The molecular weight determined by a vapor pressure depression method was 1,600. The yield was 72%.

15 Example 1

0.5 part by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.02 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 1.98 parts by weight of xylene and 97.5 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil
20 Sekiyu Corp.), to give an anti-fouling coating solution for automobile bodies and wheels.

The coating solution was coated by spraying with a spray gun onto a coated steel plate in such an amount as to give a coating of 0.2 μm in thickness after
25 conversion into silica. After drying, the coating was examined in an outdoor exposure test, and the change in contact angle was observed, to give the results in Table 1.

Table 1

Number of outdoor exposure days (days)	0	7	14	21	28	3 months	6 months	1 year
Contact angle (degrees)	65	41	23	16	11	10	9	10

As can be seen from Table 1, formation of a silica coating gradually proceeded, and 2 weeks later, a hydrophilic coating had been almost formed, and by this hydrophilic silica coating, the coated steel plate remained in a stably coated state for a long time. The coated steel plate, observed after 6 months and 1 year respectively, was not recognized to be fouled.

This coating solution was sealed in a nitrogen atmosphere, stored at ordinary temperatures, and examined for generation of monosilane after 1 month, 3 months and 6 months respectively, and as a result, the amount of monosilane generated was 43 ppm after 1 month, 61 ppm after 3 months and 75 ppm after 6 months, indicating good storage stability.

15

When the coating solution in Example 1 was placed in the cup of a spray gun and left for 30 minutes at ordinary temperatures in the air, the solution maintained its transparent state. Separately, a coating solution was prepared from the same composition described above except that Pegasol AN45 was replaced by Pegasol 3040 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.) having a lower aromatic content than in Pegasol AN45, and this coating solution turned turbid after 20 minutes. From this result, it was found that when an automobile anti-fouling coating solution having the composition described above is applied by a spray gun, a solvent containing aromatic components in a higher amount within a range not influencing a coating sublayer is preferably used in the coating solution from the viewpoint of stability of the coating solution.

25

Example 2

One part by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1

and 0.04 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 98.96 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), to give an anti-fouling coating solution for dentures.

- 5 This coating solution was applied by a spray gun onto the whole of dentures to form a silica coating of 0.3 μm in thickness thereon. The coating was converted completely into silica by drying it at 45°C for 60 minutes in an oven and subsequent treatment for 12 hours under the conditions of 40°C and 90% relative humidity in a high-temperature high-humidity apparatus. A hydrophilic and dense
10 silica coating was formed on the surface of the dentures, and when the dentures were used, the coating was not deteriorated, and fouling could be easily washed away with water, and no smell was generated.

Example 3

- 15 One part by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.04 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 11.46 parts by weight of xylene and 87.5 parts by weight of Pegasol 3040 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), to give an anti-fouling coating solution for tombstones.
- 20 This coating solution was applied by aerosol spraying onto polished granite. A uniform coating of 0.4 μm in thickness was thereby formed. After 2 weeks, a hydrophilic and dense silica coating was formed on the surface, and when left outdoors for 1 year, the coating was not deteriorated, and no fouling was observed.

25

Example 4

- 0.5 part by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.02 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 1.98 parts by weight of xylene, 32.5 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil
30 Sekiyu Corp.), 32.5 parts by weight of ethylcyclohexane and 32.5 parts by weight of methylcyclohexane, to give an anti-fouling coating solution for coating of products used with water, such as bathtubs, washstands etc. This coating solution was applied onto the surfaces of a washstand made of ceramic ware and an

enameled bathtub. A 0.2 μm uniform coating was formed respectively. Fouling hardly adhered, and if adhered, the fouling could be easily removed.

Example 5

- 5 One part by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.04 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 3.96 parts by weight of xylene, 31.7 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), 31.7 parts by weight of ethylcyclohexane and 31.7 parts by weight of methylcyclohexane, to give an anti-fouling coating solution for the interior and
10 exterior of a house. This coating solution was applied by rolling onto the surface of the outer wall of a house. The outer wall was not fouled for a long time. Fouling such as dust could be easily removed by spraying with water.

Example 6

- 15 Two parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.08 part by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 7.92 parts by weight of xylene and 90 parts by weight of Pegasol 3040 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), to give an anti-fouling coating solution for polycarbonate plates. Using a cloth impregnated with this coating solution, the
20 coating solution was applied by hand onto a polycarbonate plate. A hydrophilic and dense silica coating could be formed on the surface without erosion of the substrate by the coating solution.

Example 7

- 25 5 parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.035 part by weight of Pd propionate (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 25 parts by weight of xylene and 69.97 parts by weight of Solvesso 150 (Esso Sekiyu Co.), to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.3 μm
30 in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.3 μm in thickness after conversion into silica.

After drying, the aluminum plate and the PET film were treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The characteristics of the coating were evaluated in the following manner, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

5

Evaluation of Characteristics of the Coating

(1) Corrosion resistance

A coating was formed on an aluminum plate and then examined for the degree of corrosion of the base material for 96 hours in a CASS test wherein the test specimen was sprayed with a solution prepared by adding acetic acid and copper (II) chloride to an aqueous solution of sodium chloride.

⊙ : Significantly superior in corrosion resistance.

○ : Superior in corrosion resistance.

15 Δ : Slightly inferior in corrosion resistance.

x : Inferior in corrosion resistance.

CASS test method

20 The test specimen is sprayed with a mixture of 4% brine and 0.027% cupric chloride (dihydrate) in a test bath set at 50°C, and its corrosiveness and corrosion resistance are evaluated.

The term CASS is an abbreviation of "copper-accelerated acetic acid salt spray".

25

(2) Anti-scratch properties

A coating was formed on a polyethylene terephthalate film (PET film) and then tested with steel wool No. #000 under a loading of 500 g (area: 2 cm²) reciprocated 300 times, and its haze was measured with a haze meter.

30

Example 8

0.2 parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.002 part by weight of Pd propionate (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent

consisting of 1 parts by weight of xylene and 98.80 parts by weight of Solvesso 150 (Esso Sekiyu Co.), to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.03 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was

5 calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.03 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The coatings were evaluated in the same manner as

10 Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

Example 9

20 parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1

15 and 0.14 part by weight of Pd propionate (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 25 parts by weight of xylene and 54.86 parts by weight of Solvesso 150 (Esso Sekiyu Co.), to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 1.2 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was

20 calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 1.2 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The coatings were evaluated in the same manner as

25 Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

Example 10

5 parts by weight of the organic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 2

30 and 0.035 part by weight of Pd propionate (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 94.97 parts by weight of dibutyl ether, to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount

to give a coating of 0.3 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.3 μm in thickness after
5 conversion into silica. After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The coatings were evaluated in the same manner as Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

10 Example 11

20 parts by weight of the organic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 2 and 0.14 parts by weight of Pd propionate (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 79.86 parts by weight of dibutyl ether, to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount
15 to give a coating of 1.2 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 1.2 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3
20 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The coatings were evaluated in the same manner as Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

Example 12

25 5 parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.2 parts by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 25 parts by weight of xylene and 69.8 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 0.3 μm in
30 thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in

an amount to give a coating 0.3 μm in thickness after conversion into silica.

After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The coatings were evaluated in the same manner as Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

Example 13

15 parts by weight of the inorganic polysilazane obtained in Production Example 1 and 0.6 parts by weight of DMPP (catalyst) were dissolved in a solvent consisting of 25 parts by weight of xylene and 59.4 parts by weight of Pegasol AN45 (Mobil Sekiyu Corp.), to give a coating solution. An aluminum plate was coated by flow coating with this coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 1.0 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the aluminum plate was calcinated at 120°C for 1 hour in the air to give a sample for a corrosion resistance test. Separately, a PET film was coated by flow coating with the coating solution in an amount to give a coating of 1.0 μm in thickness after conversion into silica. After drying, the PET film was treated at 90°C, 90% RH for 3 hours, to give a sample for a scratch test. The characteristics of the coatings were evaluated in the same manner as Example 7, to give the results of corrosion resistance in Table 2 and anti-scratch properties in Table 3.

Table 2: Results of the corrosion resistance test

Example	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Aluminum plate
Evaluation results	○	△	⊕	○	⊕	○	⊕	×

Table 3: Results of the scratch test

Example	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	PET
Haze (%)	2	5	1	3	1	2	1	20

Effect of the Invention

As described above, the coating solution of the present invention is in a liquid form at the time of application, and thus the coating solution can be easily applied by

5 spray coating, a method of wiping with a cloth or sponge or the like onto the base material. After application, the polysilazane in a liquid form can be converted into a rigid and dense coating, thus easily forming a coating film excellent in anti-corrosion and anti-scratch properties. In addition, the hydrophilicity of the coating film thus formed is durable and its effective hydrophilicity can be maintained

10 usually for 1 to 2 years. Besides the hydrophilicity, the coating can give such characteristics as abrasion resistance, anti-fouling properties, wetting properties to the water, anti-scratch properties, anti-corrosion properties, sealing effect, chemical resistance, anti-oxidation properties, physical barrier effect, heat resistance, fire resistance and antistatic properties to the products or the articles.

15 Further, the coating solution can be applied in very wide uses by merely regulating the type of solvent, the amounts of compounding materials, etc.

CLAIMS:

1. A coating solution comprising a polysilazane having a Si-H bond, a diluting solvent, and a catalyst.
- 5 2. The coating solution according to Claim 1, wherein petroleum solvent, an aromatic or alicyclic solvent, an ether, a halogenated hydrocarbon or a terpene mixture or a mixture of those solvents is used as the diluting solvent.
- 10 3. The coating solution according to Claim 2, wherein a paraffin type solvent, a mineral spirit, terpene mixtures or an ether or a mixture thereof is used as the diluting solvent.
- 15 4. The coating solution according to Claim 3, wherein dibutyl ether, dimethyl ether, diethyl ether, polyglycol ether or tetrahydrofuran or a mixture thereof is used as the diluting solvent.
- 20 5. The coating solution according to any one of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the diluting solvent further comprises one or more of solvents selected from xylene, methylcyclohexane and ethylcyclohexane.
- 25 6. The coating solution according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the concentration of the polysilazane having a Si-H bond is 0.1 to 35% by weight.
7. The coating solution according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the concentration of the polysilazane having a Si-H bond is 0.5 to 10% by weight.
8. The coating solution according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the catalyst is contained in an amount of 0.01 to 30% by weight based on a pure polysilazane content having a Si-H bond.
- 30 9. The coating solution according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the catalyst is an N-heterocyclic compound, an organic or inorganic acid, a metal

carboxylate, an acetylacetonate complex, fine metal particles, an peroxide, a metal chloride or an organometallic compound.

10. The coating solution according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the
5 polysilazane having a Si-H bond is an inorganic polysilazane synthesized by
reacting SiH_2Cl_2 with a base to form an adduct of SiH_2Cl_2 and then reacting the
adduct of SiH_2Cl_2 with ammonia.
11. The coating solution according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the
10 polysilazane having a Si-H bond is a polysilazane synthesized by reacting SiH_2Cl_2
and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ with a base to form adducts of SiH_2Cl_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ and then
reacting the adducts of SiH_2Cl_2 and $\text{CH}_3\text{SiHCl}_2$ with ammonia.
12. Use of the coating solution according to any one of the claims 1 to 11 for the
15 coating of surfaces of a base material to enhance the anti-corrosion, abrasion
resistance, anti-fouling properties, easy-to-clean properties, wetting properties to
the water, sealing effect, chemical resistance, anti-oxidation, physical barrier
effect, heat resistance, fire resistance, low shrinkage, UV-barrier effect,
smoothing effect, durability effect, antistatic properties and anti-scratch
20 characteristics of the surfaces of the base materials of products or articles.
13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the coating solution is applied to the
surface of the base material in combination with a primer.
14. Use according to claim 12 and/or 13, wherein the surface has been coated
25 with laquers, varnishes or paints prior to the application of the coating solution.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 03/11614

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C09D183/16 C08K5/00 C08K3/00 C04B41/49

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C09D C08K C04B H01L C08L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 426 127 B1 (ROSS MATTHEW ET AL) 30 July 2002 (2002-07-30) claims 1,2,11-14 column 3, line 55 -column 4, line 43 column 4, line 44 -column 5, line 4 column 5, line 5 - line 18	1-11
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	-/-	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 03/11614

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